

By: Perez

H.B. No. 963

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to notice of bill payment assistance programs for certain electric customers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 39, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Section 39.9031 to read as follows:

Sec. 39.9031. NOTICE OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. (a) A retail electric provider, municipally owned utility, or electric cooperative that provided reduced rates to customers using support from the former system benefit fund shall provide to those customers, at least one time, written notice of each bill payment assistance program that might be available to assist those customers. Unless the commission under Subsection (b) establishes an alternative manner in which the notice may be sent, the retail electric provider, municipally owned utility, or electric cooperative shall include the notice with a bill sent to the customer.

(b) The commission may adopt rules establishing an alternate method of providing the notice described by Subsection (a).

(c) A notice required by this section must be provided not later than March 1, 2018.

(d) This section expires September 1, 2019.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.